



ATTS NEWSLETTER

Number 189

April to June, 2020 Volume 50, Issue #2

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Ostendorf, R-518

Dear fellow sales tax token collectors,

I hope this letter finds you well. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine a situation like we are dealing with today. I certainly hope that by the time I write this letter again in a few months that we are closer to normal. Even though I rarely found anything at a coin show to buy, I miss going to shows and catching up with so many fellow collectors and dealers who I truly like. Here is hoping this pandemic gets under control and that treatments and a vaccine are developed quickly.

If there is a silver lining to this situation, it is that we have all had time to spend on home improvement projects, our yards, etc. Do not forget to take a little time and enjoy your collection. I recently went through some of my stuff. It was nice to look at some of the tokens I kind of forgot I owned and certainly forgot when I bought them!

Plans are in place for a something special for all of our members to celebrate the ATTS's 50th anniversary. Many of us have been members for years and the board wants to show its appreciation to you for your years of loyalty to the ATTS.

Until I can see you at a coin show somewhere, please be safe! We will get through this!
Happy collecting,
John

2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE!

You can pay via Paypal by sending \$15 to jnlcalvert@gmail.com or mail \$15 to **Jim Calvert, 769 Bracken Ln, Nipomo, CA 93444**

We very much appreciate your continued support and ask you to renew promptly so Jim doesn't have to send out reminder notices. Thanks for being a member of the ATTS!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your own questions, comments, corrections, or information to:

[BILL at: Wjmhands@gmail.com](mailto:Wjmhands@gmail.com)

This issue's LTTE contributors include: Joe McCarthy has sent scans of his latest acquisitions he has recently obtained. Kevin Barnett has contributed a remarkably interesting article about the gold Missouri gold tokens. All contributors are getting a brownie points for sharing with us. THANKS GUYS!! The Corona virus has affected our lives. I have had coin shows cancelled and coin meetings cancelled. Fortunately, the internet allows communication as well as shopping and buying from a safe distance. E-bay sales of sales tax tokens are robust. Since so many of us must spend time at home I think this is a great time to look at your sales tax token collection and jot down something about it and send it to me for the newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are emailing me I would greatly appreciate it if you would supply **your full name** and membership number. I have received an email from "Jack" and I don't recognize the name off-hand or the email address either. So in order for me to list it here I have to go through my entire email address book looking for "Jack". Likewise, if you don't include your return address on a snail mail, please give me your full name on the written enclosure. Thanks for saving me a little time. I do appreciate EVERY contact but this identification would also be appreciated. **My sincere thanks, as always.**

BILL MYERS (R-570) WRITES: Thanks to Joe McCarthy for his contribution of his sales tax token finds and to Kevin Barnett for the great article. Since many of us have more time at home then we usually do I suggest you use a little of the time to write something for the newsletter. I assume other members other than Joe McCarthy are adding to their tax token collection. Send a note and a scan, it is OK to brag about an acquisition. Remember the ATTS 50th anniversary is next year. Think about sending in your ATTS memories for next years issues. Thank you to those who donated to the society, it is appreciated.

JOSEPH MCCARTHY (L-616) WRITES: I attended (worked at) our local coin club (Redwood Empire Coin Club) show in Santa Rosa, CA on Friday and Saturday. Being approximately 2,300 Miles (by car) from Ohio I was totally not expecting to find any Ohio Sales Tax items. But lo and behold that is exactly what I found during dealer set up on Friday morning. Quickly made a deal of \$20.00 for the items in the attached scans. The dealer, from Southern California said he had the items for over twenty years, and something told him to bring them to the show. It made my show.



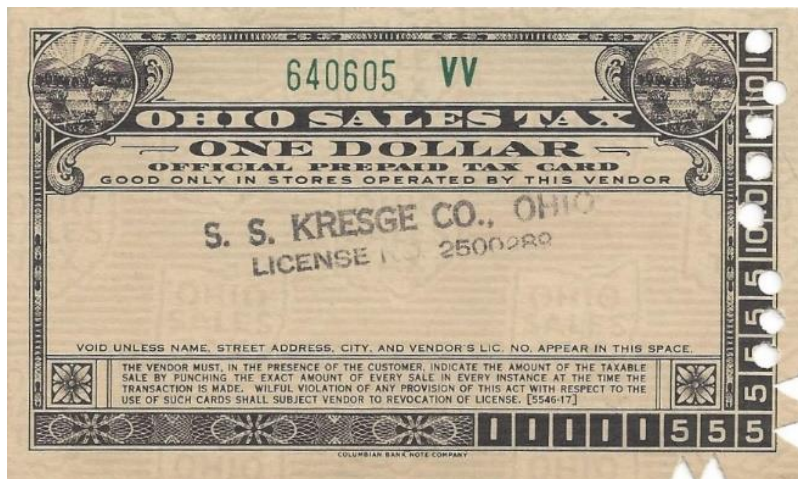
The scan shows my latest acquisition on e-bay. Item is a used (note the missing portions) North Carolina, L29 (listed in M&D as an R-6). It had a starting bid of \$3.99, plus \$0.99 Shipping and Handling OR a Buy it now price of \$5.99, plus \$0.99 Shipping and Handling. YES, I chose the Buy It Now option.



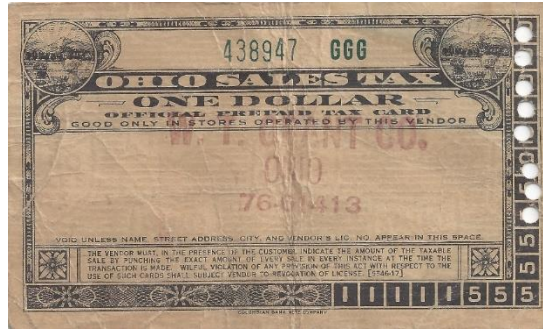
Just received the item in the attached scan (a pinback item). Starting bid was \$2.99, plus \$3.50 shipping. I obtained it for the opening amounts. The item reads: “**NO / SALES / TAX / Oregon Council for / New Politics**“. It is not listed in M&D, so I do not know much else about the item.



Attached is a scan of a SPC2-SSK which I received today. The item was listed as a “BUY IT NOW” item for \$7.44, FREE shipping. It also included 14 Ohio Consumer receipt Sales Tax Stamps.



The Vendor originally listed it with a “BUY IT NOW” price of \$99.99, plus \$3.99 Shipping. After a day I decided to see if the Vendor would accept an offer (that was more realistic). The vendor countered at \$45.00, plus \$3.99 shipping, and after thinking hard, I accepted.



ATTS 50th ANNIVERSARY IN 2021

Member Nick Sapone brought it to my attention that 2021 is the 50th anniversary of the ATTS and felt it should be commemorated. John Ostendorf and I agree with Nick. We have a year to plan it.

I would like to receive some memories about the society. Does anyone have any history on how the society started, information on the founding members and key contributors? I would also like to hear from the members on how they got started in collecting sales tax tokens and any other interesting stories related to collecting. Do not be shy or modest, the membership would like to hear from you.

As John notes something is being planned for the members to commemorate the anniversary.

Does anyone have any other ideas on how to commemorate the 50th anniversary? E-mail them to me at wjmhands@gmail.com and I will consolidate them for the board to review. This is your society and your contributions and input are needed.

The Missouri Gold Mills of 1937 – FOUND

By Kevin Barnett R-633

The Missouri Gold Mills of 1937-FOUND

Missouri State Auditor Forrest Smith had a problem. On January 6, 1934, Missouri had enacted a new law, the Missouri Retailers Occupation Tax Act, requiring retailers to collect a sales tax of “one-half percent on gross retail sales of goods and services.” Originally, this was to be paid by retailers as a cost of doing business. This new law was soon amended by the Emergency Revenue Act of 1935, which increased the tax rate to 1% effective August 27, and specified that the retailers must add the tax to sales and collect from their customers. (While the original law did not cause much reaction, once the public was responsible for paying the tax there was a significant backlash including multiple lawsuits against the state naming Auditor Bates and newly appointed Sales Tax Supervisor George H. Bates⁸.) Missouri retailers had no means to collect the tax on transactions less than \$1.00 (one cent), so Auditor Smith needed to create the means¹.

At first, it appeared the Federal Government would tackle the issue. President Roosevelt, aware of the Depression-era need for smaller coinage, asked Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau to work with Congress to develop new one- and five-mill coins. However, this initiative didn’t go anywhere in Congress and died in committee. The states who had passed sales taxes were now left to their own devices to find a workable solution to collect them². Auditor Smith had less than 2 weeks from the time he learned of the Congressional inaction until he needed to have a solution in place.

George H. Bates had joined newly elected auditor Smith in Jefferson City in 1933 as his chief clerk and was soon appointed to the newly created office of Sales Tax Supervisor. Their first solution was to contract with the National Mfg. Co of Kansas City to issue round cardboard tokens in the amounts of one and five mills, which were blank on one side. Citizens thought they resembled “milk caps”, because that’s exactly what they were originally intended to be - the early ones even had the word “sanitary” on the reverse³. They were unpopular with the public and many used the blank reverse for advertising, political ads, or satire. While such actions were promptly made illegal, there’s no record of any prosecution⁴. There are examples known that were autographed by Mr. Bates. Within six months, new varieties of the tokens were produced which were slightly smaller and had additional printing on the reverse.

Missouri soon passed the Sales Tax Act of 1937 which raised the rate from 1 to 2%. In a nod to Missouri zinc mining interests, the bill called for production of new tokens made from zinc mined in Missouri. The final product was a token that was .88 of an inch in diameter, weighed 2.5g, and made of 99.4% Missouri-mined zinc, and trace amounts of copper, lead, iron, and cadmium⁵.

The contract to manufacture these tokens was awarded to Eisenstadt Mfg. Co. of St. Louis and Osborne Register Co. of Cincinnati. Eisenstadt promptly sub-contracted the work to the Scovill Mfg Co. of Waterbury, CT for manufacture. Scovill struck both the

one-and five-mill tokens; Osborne struck only one-mill specimens⁶. In 1942, these zinc tokens were discontinued to conserve metal for the War effort, and plastic tokens were issued until Missouri discontinued the use of mills altogether in 1961. When the zinc tokens were released, the State called in the “milk caps” and sent them to the State Penitentiary to be burned.⁴

Most of the above is a matter of public record and is widely known. What is NOT so well-known is that Scovill minted two special presentation sets of the one-and five-mill tokens in 14k gold and gave them to Auditor Smith and Sales Tax Supervisor Bates. (A one-mill example was also once owned by the late Eric P. Newman of St. Louis, but it was stolen in 1964. It is thought that this single token was acquired from an Eisentadt executive⁷.)

When I read the story of the gold mills in Malehorn & Davenport in 2014, I wanted to see if I could locate them. Six years later, in February of this year, I finally found one, and the owner sent me a photo (see photo). It appears that both sets remain in the hands of the Smith and Bates families. One set was apparently split between the recipient's two children, with each child being given one of the two tokens. The other set is believed to still be in that family's possession, but its exact whereabouts are undetermined. It is described as being housed in a red velvet presentation case, likely the same for both sets. The example pictured is being donated to a history museum, and details on its eventual display home will be passed along when available.

One of the nice side stories of this venture has been the long and fruitful association between the two families involved. Not only did Gov. Smith and Treasurer Bates share a long political friendship, their succeeding generations remained friends, and there was even one romantic relationship for one couple.

One last note- in the May/June issue of the ATTS newsletter, the club welcomed new member #141, Mr. G.H. Bates of Jefferson City MO. Yes, THAT George Bates.

Gov. Smith passed away in 1962, and Treasurer Bates in 1978, but their descendants will long have stories to tell the next generations...including the one about the Missouri Gold Mills.

References

¹Malehorn, M. K., & Davenport, T. (1993). *United States sales tax tokens and stamps: a history and catalog*. Bryantown, MD: Jade House Publications. Page 143.

²Malehorn & Davenport, p. 143

³Malehorn & Davenport, p. 143

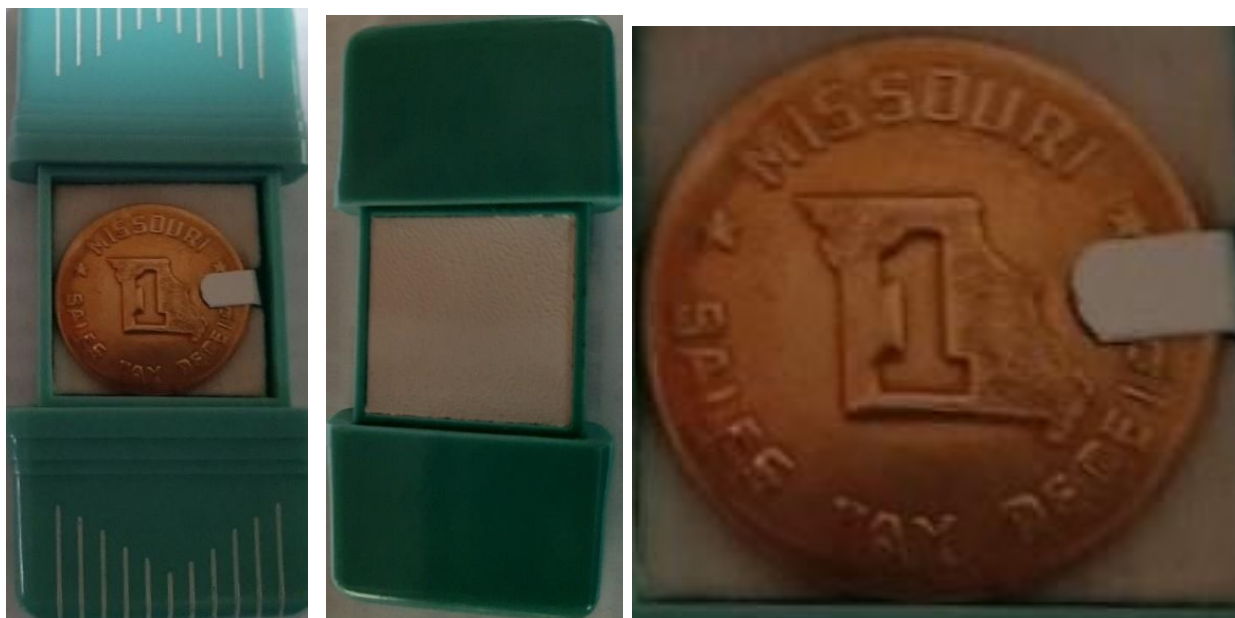
⁴Malehorn & Davenport, p. 144

⁵ *Maryville Daily Forum*, Maryville MO, July 15, 1937

⁶Malehorn & Davenport, p. 144

⁷Malehorn & Davenport, p. 155-156

⁸Author, notes from conversations with the Bates family



Gold or Gold Plated?

Merlin K. Malehorn L-279

For both Washington and Missouri, there have been reports that souvenir tokens were struck in gold for presentation to appropriate officials incident to the introduction of sales tax tokens. Chits catalogs such a token for Washington as #1, and indicates that it belonged to Paul Fouts but disappeared prior to his death and its whereabouts are unknown. Chits also catalogs Missouri #12 and #13, 1 mill and 5 mill tokens; reportedly, one or more of these was presented to Guy Bates, who kept them for his grandchildren. Since Bates is deceased (see Newsletter 59, page 24), the location of these tokens is unknown. (It would certainly be nice if some eager beaver in that area would try to track down his children and grandchildren and see if they know anything about such tokens.)

In any event, Tim Davenport and I have been discussing whether or not these were likely to be 100% gold, or just gold-plated regular tokens or patterns. Short of getting our hands on them for testing, there's no way to know for sure. But one clue would be to consider whether it was legal to own gold coins in those days. ("Those days" were 1935 - 1937.) As some of us remember, and others may have learned from history or coin collecting, it was definitely forbidden to own gold for its own sake, but perhaps gold coins/tokens were an exception. With that in mind, I wrote to the American Numismatic Association Library. In return, they sent me an extract from the Coin World Almanac, 1987. It is in a section on the history of gold. As you can see, it was not legal to manufacture gold coins. By extension it would seem gold tokens were not permissible. Ownership of gold coins, other than rare and unusual, was not permissible either. It would seem rather unlikely that someone in Guy Bates' position in the government of the State of Missouri would encourage, accept, or retain gold pieces under such conditions. Hence, it might be reasonable to conclude that the Missouri tokens and probably the Washington tokens were likely to have been gold-plated.

Gold coinage, authorized soon after the republic was formed, had been gradually phased out until the end was spelled out in 1933 when it became illegal to manufacture gold coins or to use gold as money or in lieu of money (See GOLD CHRONOLOGY).

With the gold acts and orders of 1933 and 1934, designed to centralize the gold reserves of the country into the hands of the government, restrictions on collecting gold coins were very stringent. The government wanted to make sure no one was "collecting" gold coins for their gold content rather than for their numismatic value; hence, all gold coins were called in except for those "having a recognized special value to collectors of rare and unusual coin," according to the Treasury.

A determination was made on each individual gold coin presented to the Treasury for a ruling, including gold coins made before and after 1933. The criterion for a pre-1933 coin was whether or not it had "recognized" special collector value on April 4, 1933. That for coins struck after 1933 was whether they had "true numismatic value," based on the number issued, the purpose for which they were issued, the condition of the coin, the Mint mark if any, and all other factors concerning the issue.

Foreign coins struck after 1933 and issued in large quantities or for the purpose of providing a market for gold, or simply as a money-making device, were denied entry.

1933

June 5 — The United States goes off the gold standard.

April 5 — (Executive Order 6102), August 28 (Executive Order 6260), December 28 (Order of the Secretary of the Treasury) — Government prohibits the manufacture of gold coins, private hoarding of gold and the use of gold as money or in lieu of money. Gold coins having a recognized special value to collectors of rare and unusual coin, including gold coins made prior to April 5, 1933, are exempted from delivery to the U.S. Treasury, including U.S. and foreign coins. All other gold coins, gold certificates and gold bullion are required to be turned in to the Treasury.

On the other hand, I call your attention to the letter I have reproduced on the following pages. It has been quoted in part in the Newsletter previously. It is dated 1944, some years after the federal government's action noted above (1933), and yet Bates comments to Rowold that the tokens are gold. Assuming he was mistaken, note that he also comments that they weigh about twice as much as the zinc tokens. If they were only gold plated, this difference in weight would not be noticeable. Hence, we may be faced with Mr. Bates (and maybe Mr. Smith) having held on to their gold tokens. Given their position in the state political structure (remember that Missouri at the time was heavily influenced by a political boss), perhaps there were some inquiries through the Congressional delegation and a "permission granted to keep them" from the Treasury Department. However, Bates says nothing about such an activity, so it may be that he and Smith just didn't bother to turn them in.



STATE OF MISSOURI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

FORREST SMITH, STATE AUDITOR

W. A. HOLLOWAY, CHIEF CLERK

JEFFERSON CITY

IN REPLYING PLEASE REFER TO

February 29, 1944

Mr. H. E. Rowold
1307 Brush Creek Blvd.
Kansas City 4, Missouri

Dear Mr. Rowold:

First, I want to beg your pardon for my delay in answering your letter of February 17 but have been out of town part of the time and busy closing up our month's work.

I was gratified to hear the reaction of a Republican to some of our Democratic officials and trust that you will be in the same frame of mind on election day, however, I do not work for Dwight Brown but for Forrest Smith, State Auditor, who as you know is seeking reelection.

I give you below the schedule of tokens which have been issued by this department since we started:

TOKENS ISSUED

	<u>ones</u>	<u>fives</u>
Large Paper	57,200,000	15,270,000
Small Paper	43,092,500	5,724,500
Metal	160,354,800	26,105,500
Plastic (to date)	29,270,000	8,865,000

As for the gold tokens, first, let me advise that I do not know that they are for sale because they were souvenirs and as long as I am connected with the Sales Tax Department I feel inclined to keep them.

When we placed our order for the metal tokens, a part of that order was made by the Scoville Manufacturing Co. who also make blanks for the U.S. Treasury and as a matter of courtesy they made in gold two one mill tokens and two five mill tokens, one set of which was presented to Mr. Smith and the other set to me.

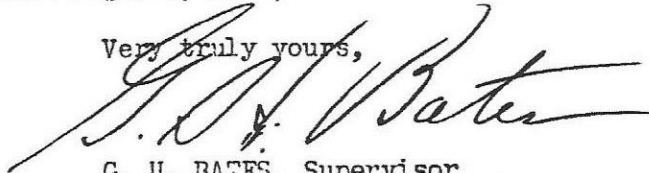
These tokens are the same size and thickness as the metal tokens and weigh about twice as much as the zinc token or approximately 1/8 ounce. The edges are plain, however, if there is any further description you would like, let me know.

One reason I asked for the approximate value was because another party had commented that to a person making collections they ought to be worth approximately \$100.00, however, I do not believe the gold in them would be more than in two \$10.00 gold pieces.

If at any time you happen to be in Jefferson City I will show them to you if you will call at my office.

With best personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. H. Bates", with a stylized, flowing script.

G. H. BATES, Supervisor
SALES TAX DEPARTMENT

GHB:jk

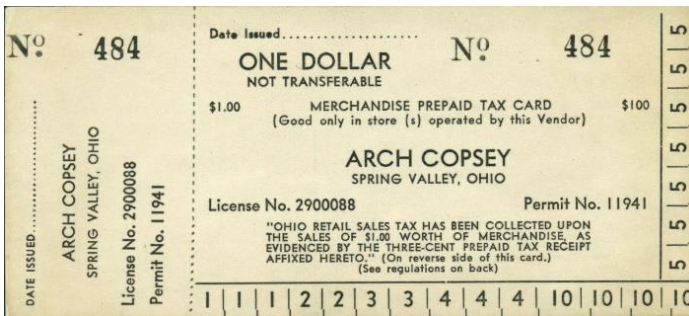
There is more information related to this topic and will be presented in the next newsletter.

Sales Tax Tokens Online

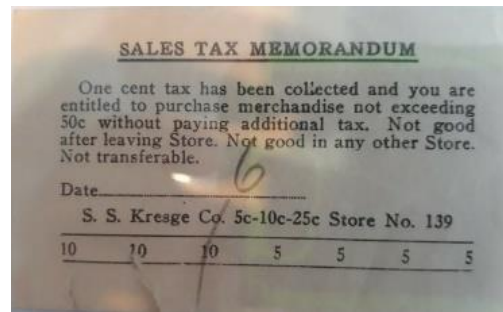
ALL PRICES LISTED ARE WITH POSTAGE IF POSTAGE WAS CHARGED



KS unlisted Pattern \$206.49
24APR20



OH Arch Copsey punch card \$1 \$291 1MAR20



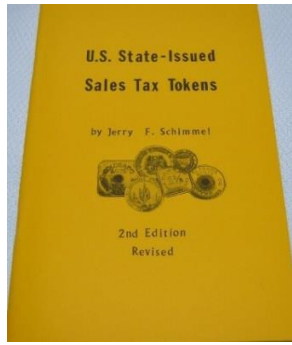
WV Sales Tax Memorandum \$39.20 15FEB20



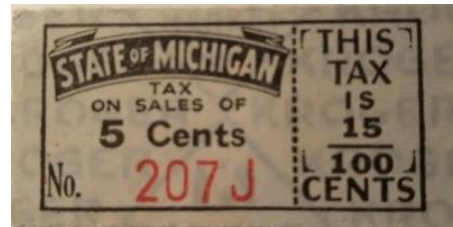
WA Tenino 1/5¢ \$50.75
15FEB20



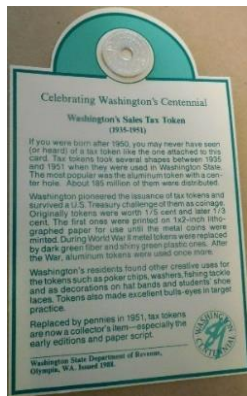
IL Beardstown 1/4¢ \$10.45
17FEB20



IL Jasper 1/4¢ <\$39.98 best offer 18FEB20 Schimmel 1980 \$10.90 19FEB20 & other dates 10¢ lb \$13.45 21FEB20



WA L21, L37, L47 \$36 22FEB20 OH 1. 2. 3. 6¢ \$5.10 29FEB20 MI sales tax on 5¢ pattern \$45.50 3MAR20



KY 1¢ tax stamp \$30.89 3MAR20 WA Centennial IL Casey 1/4¢ \$22.95 8MAR20



MO 1 mill 20 counter stamped
\$216.48 7MAY20



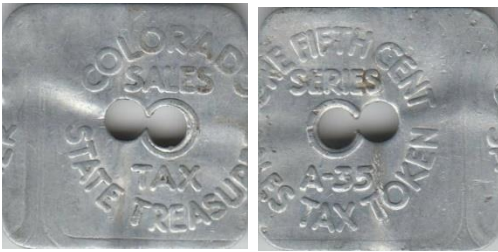
IL Rock Island (2), Paris, Keithsburg,
Charleston, Carbondale 1/4¢ tax tokens
\$32.95 9MAR20



MO 1 mill 20 counter stamped \$308
14MAR20



IL Rock Island, Moline, Jacksonville 1/4¢ tax
tokens \$7.60 13MAR20



CO 1/5¢ sales tax token \$26.34 23MAR20



NE 5¢ Humboldt anti-tax \$29 25MAR20



12 tax tokens \$4.99 26MAR20



OH 6 tax stamps \$12.20 26MAR20



OH sales tax stamp holder \$46.70 26MAR20



OH sales tax punch cards \$66.70 26MAR20



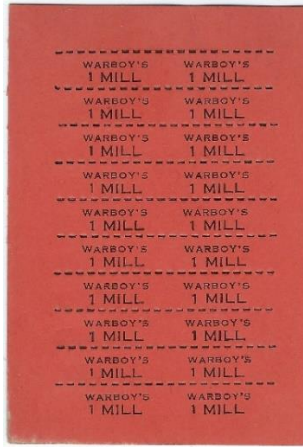
IL Beardsville, Ladd, Arcola, Jacksonville, pike, Litchfield \$21.99 27MAR20



MO 1 mill Jerry Bates purple O19a & black O19b \$28.24 27MAR20



IL Jacksonville 1/4¢ L46C \$1.14
28MAR20, \$3.50 11APR20



CA Warboy's 1 mill L18 \$6.25 28 MAR 20



CA Warboy's 1/4 mill L16 \$10.25 28MAR20



IL Tazewell County 1/4¢ L46C & L46F
\$1.14 L46E \$1.57, 28MAR20, \$1.75
11APR20 & \$3.12 18APR20

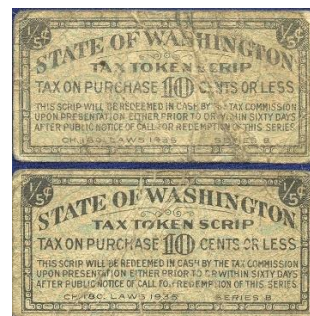
IL Arcola 1/4¢ L2 \$1.14 28MAR20 \$5,
11APR20, \$1.14 18APR20



IL Galva 1/4¢ L39
\$1.25 28MAR20,
\$3.85 4APR20

IL Litchfield 1/4¢ L55
\$1.46 28MAR20

IL Carbondale 1/4¢
L18B \$1.14
28MAR20



WA 1/5¢ \$5.99
29MAR20, \$6.30
12APR20



IL Boston 1/4c L67 \$4.70 31MAR20, \$2.50 1APR20, IL Arcola 1/4c L2 X 28 \$33.25 \$5.10 20APR20



IL Galva 1/4c L39 X 5 \$38.20 4APR20 IL Chanderville 1/4c L20 X 5 \$38.70 4APR20



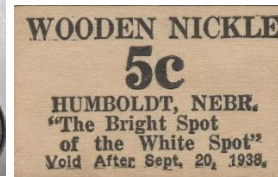
IL Tazwell 1/4c Die 1 \$5.59 4APR20 IL Effingham 1/4c X 20 \$13.98 5APR20 OH 1 cent \$4.90 10APR20



IL Moline, East Moline, Silvia X 1, Rock Island X 6 1/4c \$29.99 5APR20



IL Rock Island 1/4c X 6 <\$29.99 Best Offer 5APR20



NE Humboldt 5c
\$18.55 10APR20



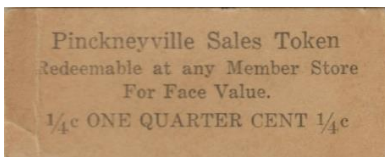
IL Beardstown 1/4c \$10 20APR20



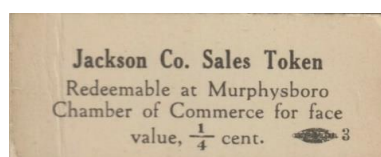
IL Beardstown 1/4c \$31.04 3MAY20



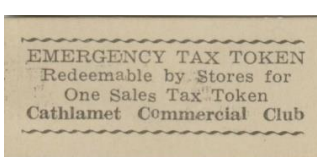
NE Humboldt 5c \$19.00 22APR20



IL Pinckneyville 1/4c \$24.22
24APR20



IL Murphysboro 1/4c \$36.50
24APR20



WA Cathlamet Commercial Club
\$11.01 24APR20



SECRETARY/TREASURER'S NOTES

Jim Calvert R-533

[Pay Pal -jnlcalvert@gmail.com](mailto:jnlcalvert@gmail.com)

Any questions or information needed please give me an email at
jnlcalvert@gmail.com or call 805-540-8778.

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 1, 2020 – May 4, 2020

Beginning Balance	02/01/2020	Ending Balance \$ 344		
Balance	02/29/2020	Expenses 0	Income \$307.41	Ending Balance \$651.41
Balance	03/31/2020	Expenses \$209.32	Income \$70	Ending Balance \$512.90
Balance	04/30/2020	Expenses \$0	Income \$28.53	Ending Balance \$540.62
Balance	05/04/2020	Expenses \$0	Income \$15.00	Ending Balance \$555.62

DONATIONS: John Ostendorf, Thomas Carson, Richard Lane, Gene Wood, Pascal Brock and Michael Lampert. All donations are very much appreciated.

The balance for May covers the cost of the last newsletter. As usual, this report does not include the cost of this newsletter because that cost cannot be known until after this statement is made. We are in satisfactory financial shape. Thanks to all who have made a donation.

DONATIONS: All the donations are appreciated very much and help keep us from needing to raise the dues even with increased postal rates and coping costs. Life members, it is okay if you want to make a donation.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

February 1, 2020

NEW MEMBERS:	None
DROPS:	None
MEMBERSHIP:	58 paid +6 donated

TRADING POST

Deadline for Issue #190 = Aug 5, 2020

RULES:

CLASSIFIED All members may place a classified advertisement **free of charge** and may change it every issue if they wish. No limitations on word count as long as it stays within reason.

FOR SALE ITEMS: (1) Up to ten items (lots) per issue per member. (2) Fixed prices only - no trades or auctions. (3) Members may offer a fixed price WITH an Or Best Offer option if they desire to do so. (4) Sellers must list a preferred contact and type of payment accepted (Checks, Money Orders, Pay Pal), as well as postage costs, if any. (5) Sellers must accept returns on all sales for 10 days after customer's date of receipt. (6) Refunds to the customer do not include their return postage costs. (7) Each lot may include up to three photos. (8) **10% of all sales** must be paid to Jim Calvert for the ATTS on an honor basis. Be SURE to let Jim know why you are paying him those funds when you send them. (9) Editor reserves the right to refuse or refine any For Sale Lot. I can't actually think why that would ever happen.

ATTENTION

ALL OLD CLASSIFIED ADS HAVE BEEN REMOVED

In the last newsletter I noted I would remove all old classified ads unless I heard from the member who had submitted the ad. I did not get a single response so all old ads are removed. If you want to place an ad please contact me at wjmhands@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: United States Sales Tax Tokens and Stamps: A History and Catalog, by Malehorn and Davenport. New copy, fresh shrink wrap, comes with ten different sales tax tokens, including one stamp and one 1/4 cent provisional from Illinois. Supreme mailer, half price \$25, postpaid. Paul Cunningham, P.O. Box 1, Tecumseh, MI 49286. **** 2nd time****

I'LL BUY YOUR COLLECTION: Tougher IL provisionals and virtually any STT scrip wanted. Also buying entire STT collections. Please contact John Ostendorf, 523 Hiwasee Rd, Waxahachie, TX 75165 or johnoste64@gmail.com.

American Tax Token Society (ATTS)

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The society's officer's serve without compensation of any kind other than direct expenses incurred when conducting official society business.

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